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**NEWS From:**

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**Congressman Mike Honda**

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**FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Honda Visits Rescue Workers at Pentagon for Briefing House Passes \$40 Billion in Emergency Relief Funding**

**Washington, D.C.--** Today, the House of Representatives passed, H.R. 2888, the Emergency Disaster Supplemental Appropriations bill, which will provide \$40 billion in emergency funds to respond to the terrorist attacks on the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001. The bill, strongly supported by Honda, passed unanimously after one hour of debate. The bill allows the President to spend \$10 billion as he believes is necessary with prior consultation with the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Appropriations Committees, and another \$10 billion that will be released contingent upon the approval of a plan submitted by the White House to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The remaining \$20 billion will become available when enacted in a subsequent emergency appropriations bill. The bill requires that not less than one-half of the bill's total appropriation of \$40 billion will be for disaster recovery activities and assistance related to the terrorist acts in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

**"This legislation is the first step in the effort to begin the recovery process and to strengthen the nation's security,"** said Honda. **"I am very pleased that the House has acted quickly and decisively in dedicating critical federal resources to fund the rescue and rebuilding effort at the Pentagon and in New York."**

At 2:00 PM today, Honda, joined by a Congressional delegation and a military escort, visited the crash site at the Pentagon to view the damage first hand, to offer support to rescue workers and to receive briefings from military officials on the latest developments. Desktop computers, water coolers, chairs and desks could visibly be seen in exposed offices whose walls had been sheared away by the impact of the hijacked plane. Honda and the delegation were clearly moved by the devastation they saw and by the round the clock work by emergency and military personnel to find survivors and to stabilize the building. Honda and others embraced soldiers and firemen and thanked them for their courage and dedication, assuring them that federal resources were being put in place to support their efforts.

**"Hope, valor, devastation and loss all walk side by side at the Pentagon— nothing can prepare you for viewing such devastation up close,"** said Honda. **"The energy and dedication being put forth by rescue workers, volunteers and military personnel is truly remarkable, our people are working around the clock and they are steadily making progress. On behalf of all of the residents of the South Bay and the United States I thanked them for their heroic actions during this National Day of Mourning."**